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From: "Hal Candee"
Sent: Thur 8/2/2012 12:00:30 AM
Subject: Follow Up to July 25th: Questions about Next Steps
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To: David Nawi, Letty Belin, Will Stelle, Karla Nemeth, Mark Cowin, Chuck Bonham

Cc: Bruce DiGennaro

From: Defenders of Wildlife, American Rivers, NRDC, Bay Institute and Nature Conservancy

Re: Follow Up to July 25th: Questions about Next Steps

As requested by Secretary Laird, Commissioner Connor and the rest of the federal and state agencies involved in BDCP, our organizations have previously set out the issues that we believe need to be addressed for a successful BDCP. Our joint advisory last week stated clearly: "A new diversion facility could be an important part of an overall plan to effectively manage the Delta's environmental problems and make the water supply system less vulnerable to failure; but a new facility would be acceptable only if it were designed and operated to benefit the Delta ecosystem." Our media statements before and after the July 25th Announcement have emphasized the need for a balanced and lawful BDCP plan and our willingness to engage constructively with all of the relevant agencies and parties to achieve a successful BDCP outcome. We are now writing about some of the new statements that have been made by state and federal leaders, which have raised additional questions.

Specifically, during the July 25th announcement, the agencies stated that they would complete a draft EIS/EIR "this fall." There are many critical unanswered questions that must be resolved before a sufficient draft environmental review can be completed. Please provide the next steps (including who and how) as well as the anticipated dates (when) for resolving the following issues or completing the following tasks to help us better assist in assuring a defensible and complete draft environmental analysis:

Describing initial operations that implement commitments announced on July 25th (e.g., Project operations that will reduce reliance on South Delta exports, dramatically reduce the number of fish killed, provide improved outflows to support recovery of covered fish, incorporate "fish-friendly operations" at fish screens to protect young fish)

Completing biological goals and objectives that meet the recovery and restoration threshold

Describing enforceable link between achieving biological goals and objectives and operational changes

Describing a complete set of Decision Tree criteria affecting operations

Completing draft EIS/EIR

Completing draft effects analysis on revised project description

It would be most helpful if you can provide us answers before the next scheduled NGO-Agency meeting on August 14th. Thank you for your response to these critical questions.

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